

LARRY D. THOMPSON

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March 17, 2021

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Letter in Support of Vanita Gupta, Nominee for Associate Attorney General of the United States Department of Justice

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

I write in strong support of Vanita Gupta to become the Associate Attorney General of the United States Department of Justice.

I have had the honor of appearing many times before this distinguished Committee, particularly in my former role as Deputy Attorney General of the United States under President George W. Bush and in support of the nominations of Jeff Sessions and William Barr to be Attorney General of the United States. I also had the honor to serve earlier in my career as U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia under President Reagan. I count myself deeply fortunate to have also served in the Justice Department alongside current members of this distinguished Committee.

I came to personally know Ms. Gupta through a fellowship program that was created in my honor at PepsiCo: the *Larry D. Thompson Legacy of Leadership Fellowship Program*. Ms. Gupta and I spent some time together when she came to speak to the Thompson Fellows about public service, leadership, and her life and career in the law. It was delightful -- and I found Ms. Gupta to not only be engaging, but to be an impressive leader devoted to doing the right thing and committed to an impartial Department of Justice. I have since followed Ms. Gupta's career, both before and

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after that time, and have consistently been impressed with her record and her ability to bring people together.

In particular, I know that this Committee over the past few years worked tirelessly to reform various federal criminal laws that were not only unfair, but also extraordinarily costly, to both taxpayers and to families personally affected by ill-advised sentencing laws and unworkable prisoner reentry programs. I am proud to have worked with members of this Committee on that bipartisan effort as did Ms. Gupta. Vanita Gupta's determination and efforts at bipartisan consensus, along with many Members of this Committee, is why the *First Step Act* was enacted and signed into law by President Trump.

I supported Ms. Gupta's nomination when she was nominated in January by President Biden to serve as Associate Attorney General. And, after having observed her testify before this Committee and observing the impressive support across the law enforcement and civil rights communities on her behalf, I remain certain that she is absolutely qualified and well-suited to become the Associate Attorney General of the United States.

Ms. Gupta will indeed be an effective and completely professional Associate Attorney General. She will serve with distinction and in a bipartisan manner. I urge this Committee to favorably report her nomination to the full Senate. And I urge the Senate to confirm Vanita Gupta with bipartisan support.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,



Larry D. Thompson

Deputy Attorney General, 2001-2003

U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia, 1982-1986